

Action Card

Measles - Transmission based precautions (TBPs) & Isolation

Staff will be aware of the precautions required to care for a patient with suspected or confirmed measles safely.

Isolation

Patients must be promptly assessed for infection risk on arrival or before they enter a care area.

If a patient attends and measles is suspected, they should be isolated in a single room. If possible/tolerated the patient should wear a type 11R fluid resistant surgical facemask (FRSM).

Signage should be used on doors/areas to communicate isolation requirements and prevent entry of unnecessary visitors, and non-essential staff. Patient confidentiality must be maintained.

Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs)

Transmission Based Precautions are used when route(s) of transmission is(are) not completely interrupted using Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) alone.

TBPs are categorised by the route of transmission of infectious agents (some infectious agents can be transmitted by more than one route).

Measles is transmitted through the Airborne and Droplet route and TBPs are required.

Airborne precautions and TBPs

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Before undertaking any procedure, staff should assess any likely exposure to blood and/or other body fluids, non-intact skin or mucous membranes and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) that protects adequately against the risks associated with the procedure.

Staff should wear the following PPE when assessing or managing patients with confirmed or suspected measles.

- Single-use, disposable gloves
- Single-use, disposable apron (or gown if extensive splashing or spraying, or performing an aerosol generating procedure (AGP))
- Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) - FFP3 respirator
- Eye/face protection (goggles or visor)

Respiratory Protective equipment (RPE)

RPE for caring for a suspected or confirmed measles is a Filtering Face Piece level 3 (FFP3). FFP3 are only to be worn by staff who have been fit tested for the appropriate mask, as without correct fit testing the mask will not provide adequate protection

Staff should ensure they have an adequate seal and fit everytime they apply an FFP3.

For guidance on the application and removal of PPE please refer to the donning and doffing action cards or the national IPC manual pages 50 -51.

Care equipment

Use single use items, if possible. When not possible reusable non-invasive care equipment should be dedicated to the patient and thoroughly decontaminated prior to use on another patient.

Reusable equipment should be decontaminated with detergent followed by disinfectant wipe/solution. For further information, please refer to decontamination of equipment action card or the national IPC manual page 52.

Care Environment

Equipment used for environmental decontamination must be either single-use or dedicated to the affected area then decontaminated or disposed of following use eg, cloths, mop heads.

Vacated rooms will require resting (Fallow time) for a period of time before domestic staff can then clean the room. This is usually up to 2 hours for rooms with limited ventilation. Ensure the domestic is informed that a suspected case of measles has been in the area. During this time, no staff should be allowed to enter the area.

If domestic staff are not available and the use of the room is required, staff within the service would be required to complete the clean. This would involve donning PPE and wiping down all surfaces and reusable equipment with a detergent/chlorine based disinfectant (1,000ppm). Any clinical curtains would require changing.

Waste and Linen

Sites waste, from people with a known infection, should be disposed of in an orange infected waste bag. For further advice on the safe disposal of waste refer to the IPC manual section 1.9, page 25.

Advice for patients, carers, and parents

If the patient has confirmed or suspected measles, then if possible/tolerated the patient should wear a surgical face mask in communal areas. The request for patients to wear a facemask must never compromise their clinical care. NB FFP3 respirators or powered respirator hoods must never be worn by an infectious patient(s).

Parents and carers should be supported to attend the care area while minimising the risk of exposure to other patients and themselves.

For further advice ontact the IPCT: ipc.wirralct@nhs.net or Tel 0151 604 7750 Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm excluding bank holidays and weekends.